



# FELLOW NEWS

*News for and about the NOAA Fellows*

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## Fellows Look Ahead: 2015–2017

*Our new fellows will tackle critical coastal issues.*

In April, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management matched NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship candidates with coastal zone programs in six U.S. states and jurisdictions. Recipients of the two-year fellowships will carry out innovative projects addressing community resilience, climate change adaptation, sea level rise, and stormwater management.



**Rachel Bouchillon**, from the University of Florida and nominated by Florida Sea Grant, was matched with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Division of Coastal Resources Management to help achieve resilient and sustainable growth by centralizing data and creating decision-support tools.



**Simone Barley-Greenfield**, from Stanford University and nominated by California Sea Grant, was matched with the New Hampshire Coastal Program to systematically integrate social science into ecosystem management for New Hampshire's estuaries.



**Ashley Green**, from Duke University and nominated by North Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to provide the state's coastal communities with stormwater management tools

that are effective in improving both coastal water quality and resilience to climate change.



**Julie Sepanik**, from George Mason University and nominated by Virginia Sea Grant, was matched with the Oregon Coastal Management Program to plan for sea level rise by building an inventory of vulnerable estuary shoreland resources.



**Abbie Sherwin**, from the University of New Hampshire and nominated by New Hampshire Sea Grant, was matched with the Maine Coastal Program to strengthen the resilience of Maine's coastal communities by creating a hazard resilience

index and increasing participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System.



**Amanda Leinberger**, from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and nominated by California Sea Grant, was matched with the Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program to design and create an online self-assessment and solutions tool to help coastal communities better understand the risk and impacts associated with coastal hazards, including climate change, and pilot this tool in coastal communities in Puerto Rico.

## Guardians of the Coast: 2013–2015

*We say farewell to six amazing coastal fellows.*



**Kelsey Ducklow** worked with the California Coastal Commission to integrate climate change and adaptation planning into the commission's planning and regulatory program. "Kelsey has been a fantastic fellow, providing an enormous and

essential contribution to the work of the Coastal Commission's Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Team and on our Sea Level Rise Guidance," says mentor Susan Hansch. "She is a solid professional who is a joy to work with and to have as a part of our team. She is intelligent, knowledgeable, courteous, insightful, organized, committed, self-sufficient and tenacious to task and fun too! Kelsey has a special knack of being able to work well with colleagues and with upper management and inspire others to get things done. Kelsey is a rock star in my book!"



**Emily Norton** worked with the Maine Coastal Program to provide a baseline characterization in the Gulf of Maine for developing Maine's Ocean Resources Strategy and implementing Maine's ocean planning efforts. "For the past two years,

Emily has been an absolutely invaluable member of the Maine Coastal Program," says mentor Matt Nixon. "She has taken Maine's fledgling seafloor mapping program and molded it into a rigorous, efficient, and respected ocean survey effort. Her role in managing survey vessel staff has been indispensable. She has taken on a leadership role with regards to the marine portion of the state's Wildlife Action Plan assessment and continues to develop new skills quickly and comprehensively. She won't be going anywhere after her fellowship if we have a say in it."



**Margot Mansfield** worked with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to address competing marine resource use issues and promote beach and dune nourishment in Massachusetts as a viable and cost-effective climate change adaptation tool for shore protection. “Providing balanced options to protect coastal development isn’t easy, and having a strong understanding of science and management makes all the difference,” says mentor Julia Knisel. “During her fellowship, Margot effectively applied her technical skills to a number of shoreline management projects in the office and field, and with communities. She diligently tracked down data on beach nourishment activities coast-wide. She dug through record-breaking snow to analyze profiles and grain sizes of eroding public beaches. She also led representatives of a regional coalition to plan and conduct a very successful symposium on sea level rise and local adaptation. Her sincere and modest nature and her sense of humor also make Margot a wonderful complement to the CZM team and a highly-valued colleague who we hope to keep around, to support a growing number of community resilience efforts across the coast.”



**Meg Gardner** worked with the Oregon Coastal Management Program to create an improved data repository and framework for Oregon’s ocean shore permitting process. “Meg has been an amazing addition to our coastal program,” says mentor Laren Woolley. “Her work is always professional and accurate. Her great work ethic, problem-solving mindset, and delightful personality have endeared her to everyone she has associated with. We feel like we won the lottery with Meg! The products she produced are really important. They are already being used by a wide array of stakeholders, not only in managing coastal protective structures here and now but also in setting the stage for future state policy changes due to climate change impacts. Meg’s ability to present challenging technical information to a wide variety of stakeholders has been a tremendous asset to the success of her work with us. As her mentor I continue to be amazed by it! What an asset and friend she is to all of us in our coastal program. Simply put, Meg rocks!”



**Kirsten Howard** worked with the New Hampshire Coastal Program to improve spatial planning for New Hampshire’s estuaries and inform priority restoration and management issues in the Great Bay Estuary. “Kirsten did an exceptional job as New Hampshire’s coastal management fellow,” says mentor Chris Williams. “She possesses strong organizational, coordination, and communication skills that enable her to work effectively with a broad range of partners and stakeholders. I was particularly impressed with her ability to successfully manage her project after the departure of two key partners who were members of her project team. She demonstrated great adaptability and resiliency. The data products that Kirsten created as part of her project were also instrumental in the development of the New Hampshire Coastal Viewer, an online mapping tool for coastal resources and hazards-related spatial data in New Hampshire’s coastal watershed. We are confident that the skills she developed and the strong personal connections she made during her fellowship will help her succeed in her next professional endeavor, as the New Hampshire Coastal Program’s Resiliency Specialist. We’re thrilled to have her on board full-time!”



**Liz Podowski** worked with the New York Division of Coastal Resources to develop a guide and methods for the application of geospatial tools for use in New York’s offshore planning. “We were fortunate enough to convince Liz to come to New York, and she has exceeded all our expectations,” says mentor Jeff Herter. “Liz has a strong work ethic, excellent interpersonal skills, a superb aesthetic, is extremely bright, motivated, efficient, highly effective and productive, there really aren’t enough superlatives. We have benefitted from Liz’s work here in countless ways and on a multitude of projects, not least of which was overseeing the creation of the OPD Geographic Information Gateway [<http://opdgig.dos.ny.gov/index.html#/home>]. We are working on making it possible for Liz to continue her work with us and will be extremely lucky to have her here.”